

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to correct minor typographical and/or grammatical errors. No new matter has been added. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner notes in claim 1, penultimate line, that the phrase "the sintered powder" lacks a clear antecedent. The Examiner questions whether the phrase refers to the "sintered powder of Fe-Si" or a "Si sintered powder".


Claim 1 has been amended herein to clarify that the quoted phrase refers to "the sintered powder of Fe-Si". Support for this amendment is found throughout the instant specification, particularly on page 12, lines 13-16.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-8 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, set forth above. The amendment of claim 1 made hereinabove overcomes the rejection under §112 and, accordingly, base claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner's reconsideration and favorable action with respect to claims 1-8 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
THE WEBB LAW FIRM

By


Kent E. Baldauf
Registration No. 25,826
Attorney for Applicants
700 Koppers Building
436 Seventh Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
Telephone: 412-471-8815
Facsimile: 412-471-4094